

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 SCI-06 NSC-07 HEW-08 DOTE-00

INT-08 HUD-02 DODE-00 CEQ-02 EPA-04 EB-11 OIC-04

FAA-00 CG-00 COME-00 FMC-04 DLOS-07 COA-02 NSF-04

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7868

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 951

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 4076

US MISSION OECD PARIS 4199

US MISSION GENEVA 2039

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 5332

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y -- PARA 4D --

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, NATO

SUBJECT: CCMS: COASTAL WATER POLLUTION-REPORT OF MEETING OF
CCMS EXPERT GROUP ON OIL SPILLS 26-27 SEPTEMBER 1974

PLEASE PASS TO DOT/OFFICE OF UNDER SECRETARY: COAST GUARD/
RADM PRICE; EPA/CCMS COORDINATOR HARRIS; AND NOAA/DIRECTOR
MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICE

REF: A. USNATO 4582

B. USNATO 4762

SUMMARY: SUBJECT GROUP MET 26-27 SEPTEMBER AT NATO TO REVIEW
1970 NATO OIL SPILLS RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN LIGHT
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OF SITUATION AS IT HAS DEVELOPED SINCE ORIGINAL CCMS INITIATIVE
ON PROBLEM. GROUP AGREED ON UPDATING OF 1970 RESOLUTIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS, MOST OF WHICH STILL REMAIN ESSENTIALLY VALID,
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PROGRESS MEANWHILE. GROUP CONCLUDED THAT

CCMS HAS LARGELY FULFILLED ITS ORIGINAL 1970 MISSION AS CATALYST TO ACTION ON OVERALL PROBLEM BUT THAT IT SHOULD MAINTAIN ONGOING INTEREST IN CERTAIN SPECIFIC AREAS OF OIL SPILLS PROBLEM, NOTABLY TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE AND SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS, WHERE ACTION IS LAGGING AND CCMS CAN EFFECTIVELY FOSTER EFFORTS IN NEAR TERM TO FILL GAP. BELGIUM WILL REPORT OUTCOME OF MEETING TO OCTOBER 1974 CCMS PLENARY AND SUBMIT TO SPRING 1975 CCMS PLENARY PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT REACHED BY GROUP OF EXPERTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT BELGIUM'S INVITATION (REF A), CCMS EXPERT GROUP ON OIL SPILLS CONVENED AT NATO HEADQUARTERS ON 26 SEPTEMBER UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF CAPTAIN MARC RENSON, BELGIAN COORDINATOR OF CCMS COASTAL WATER POLLUTION PILOT STUDY. TEN GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED AS FOLLOWS: BELGIUM (DESECK, ADMINISTRATION DE LA MARINE), CANADA (YUEN AND TAIT, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT), FRANCE (DUCLAUX, MINISTERE DES TRANSPORTS-MARINE MARCHANDE), FRG (MENZEL, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT), ITALY (D'AGOSTINO, MINISTERO MARINA MERCANTILE), NETHERLANDS (TROMP, RYKSWATERSTAAT), NORWAY (BALTERSEN, NORWEGIAN NATO DEL), PORTUGAL (CRISTIANO CASQUINHO, COMISSAO NACIONAL CONTRA A POLUICAO DO MAR), UK (LUMMIS, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT; AND WILKENS, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY), AND U.S. (WALLANCE, USCG, HEBERT, NOAA, AND SANDERS, USNATO).

2. BASIC WORKING DOCUMENT FOR MEETING WAS RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL ON THE POLLUTION OF THE SEABY OIL SPILLS AS CONTAINED IN ANNEXES I AND II TO C-M(70)YR (REVISED). GROUP VIEWED RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ITEM BY ITEM, TOGETHER WITH REPORTS FROM DELEGATES ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTINUING PROGRAMS WHICH RELATE TO RECOMMENDATIONS. DECISIONS ON FURTHER ROLE FOR CCMS IN SEA POLLUTION WORK WERE DEFERRED UNTIL ALL ITEMS HAD BEEN COVERED.

3. MOST DELEGATIONS ACKNOWLEDGED IMPORTANT CCMS CONTRIBUTION IN MOBILIZING HEIGHTENED INTERNATIONAL CONCERN AND ACTION ON OIL UNCLASSIFIED

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SPILLS, WITH RESULTING IMPACT ON SUBSEQUENT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN IMCO. ON FUTURE CCMS ROLE IN FIELD, THERE WAS INITIAL DISAGREEMENT; UK SUGGESTED TIME HAD PERHAPS COME FOR TERMINATION OF FURTHER CCMS ACTIVITY ON OIL POLLUTION PROBLEMS. U.S. SUGGESTED THAT CCMS MIGHT CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE USEFULLY IN FOSTERING ACTION IN SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ARE ABLE OR WILLING TO PROCEED WITH PRODUCTIVE WORK AT PRESENT OR IN NEAR FUTURE. UK MAINTAINED THAT ALL WORK ENCOMPASSED BY RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS HAD BEEN OR EVENTUALLY WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER IMCO AUSPICES, LEAVING NO ROLE FOR CCMS WHICH WOULD NOT DUPLICATE THAT OF IMCO. U.S. EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT OF IMCO BUT NOTED THAT HEAVY IMCO WORK PROGRAM, FAR WIDER AND MORE HETEROGENEOUS IMCO MEMBERSHIP, AND POSSIBLE

LIMITATIONS ON IMCO MANDATE FOR POLLUTION WORK COULD MEAN THAT SOME PROBLEM AREAS WOULD NOT BE ADDRESSED IN MEANINGFUL WAY FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME BY ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, ADDING THAT HERE COULD BE NEAR-TERM TASK FOR CCMS ACTION-ORIENTED APPROACH. BELGIUM CONCURRED WITH U.S. OTHER DELS, ALSO RECOGNIZING NEED FOR STIMULATING EARLY ACTION IN CERTAIN PROBLEM AREAS, EXPRESSED POSITIONS BETWEEN FOREGOING VIEWS.

4. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH FRANCE, UK, AND U.S., THE CHAIRMAN DEVELOPED FOLLOWING PROPOSAL WHICH RECEIVED UNANIMOUS APPROVAL WHEN PRESENTED FORMALLY TO GROUP:

A. THE 1970 NATO RESOLUTIONS AND MOST OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS REMAIN ESSENTIALLY VALID IN THAT THEY RECOGNIZE EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND IDENTIFY ACTIONS WHICH STILL SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MEET THOSE PROBLEMS.

B. IMCO IS UNDERTAKING A WORK PROGRAM WHICH CORRESPONDS TO TERMS OF MANY OF THE RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

C. IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE NATO COUNCIL TO ADOPT AN UPDATED OVERALL RESOLUTION GENERAL IN NATURE WHICH WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT CCMS HAS LARGELY FULFILLED ITS ORIGINAL AIM AS A CATALYST FOR ACTION AS SPELLED OUT IN THE 1970 RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND INDICATE THAT ACCROSS-THE-BOARD OIL SPILLS FOLLOW-UP IN CCMS AS IN THE YEARS SINCE 1970 IS NO LONGER NECESSARY. BELGIUM WILL TRANSMIT A DRAFT OF SUCH A RESOLUTION TO ATTENDEES OF THIS MEETING.
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ING BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, ASKING FOR RAPID RESPONSE AND CANDID COMMENTS.

D. AT THE SAME TIME DISCUSSION AT THIS MEETING HAD DISCLOSED THAT CERTAIN MATTERS ARE NOT BEING ADDRESSED NOW IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND IN ALL LIKELIHOOD WILL NOT BE TACKLED AT LEAST WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THESE MATTERS ARE CHIEFLY THOSE IDENTIFIED AS TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS IN THE 1970 RECOMMENDATIONS, BOTH OF WHICH WOULD BENEFIT FROM ACTIVE EXPERT-TO-EXPERT TECHNICAL EXCHANGE AND CONCRETE RESULTS TYPIFIED BY CCMS APPROACH.

E. CCMS MEMBERS SHOULD COMMIT THEMSELVES TO A THOROUGH EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THESE TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS DURING THE NEXT ONE TO ONE AND A HALF

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INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 SCI-06 NSC-07 HEW-08 DOTE-00

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US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 4077

US MISSION OECD PARIS 4200

US MISSION GENEVA 2040

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YEARS, THIS EFFORT TO CULMINATE IN A MEETING OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS WHO WILL EXAMINE THE EXISTING STATE OF THE ART AT THAT TIME IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL FIELD.

F. AT THE OCTOBER 1974 CCMS PLENARY, BELGIUM WILL REPORT GENERALLY ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SEPTEMBER 26-27 MEETING OF EXPERTS. AT THE APRIL 1975 CCMS PLENARY, BELGIUM WILL SUBMIT THE DRAFT REVISED RESOLUTION PER SUBPARA C ABOVE AND WILL PROPOSE FOR CONSIDERATION BY CCMS THEIR TENSIFIED INFORMATION EXCHANGE ACTION PROGRAM PER SUBPARA E ABOVE.

G. AT THE SAME TIME SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF THE GENERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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PROBLEM SHOULD ALSO BE ASSIGNED ENHANCED PRIORITY, WELL BEYOND THEIR SOMEWHAT SECONDARY PLACE BACK IN 1970. AT THE OCTOBER 1974 PLENARY, BELGIUM WILL PROPOSE A MEETING IN MARCH 1975 OF EXPERTS ON THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF MARINE POLLUTION. THIS GROUP SHOULD ASSESS PROGRESS IN THE FIELD AND DEVELOP DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CCMS, DESIGNED TO FACILITATE FURTHER MEANINGFUL EFFORTS BY GOVERNMENTS, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY.

5. IN SUMMING UP, CHAIRMAN WELCOMED GROUP'S DECISIONS AS PRACTICAL AND USEFUL OUTCOME WHEREBY CCMS MIGHT MOST EFFECTIVELY AND APPROPRIATELY FURTHER THE IMPULSE IT HAD ALREADY GIVEN TO PROGRESS ON OIL SPILLS PROBLEMS. HE HAD BELIEVED THAT THE EARLIER CCMS FOLLOW-UP

METHOD,
CONSISTING MAINLY OF ANNUAL WRITTEN REPORTS BY COUNTRIES, WAS
HAVING DIMINISHING IMPACT ON OIL SPILLS OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
IN YEARS SINCE 1971. ACCORDINGLY, BELGIUM AS A CCMS PILOT COUNTRY
HAD RECENTLY SUGGESTED REVISED FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURES,
JUST APPROVED BY CCMS AND THE COUNCIL, WHEREBY AFTER A REASONABLE
INTERVAL EXPERTS WOULD REVIEW PROGRESS AS A RESULT OF CCMS INITIATIVES

AND WOULD MAKE UPDATED ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ANY FUTURE
USEFUL ACTIVITY. THIS MEETING SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER CCMS FOLLOW-UP

WORK IN ASSESSING RESULTS AND POINTING THE WAY TO AN APPROPRIATE
AND CONSTRUCTIVE NEXT PHASE. THUS, FUTURE FOLLOW-UP ACTION IN
THE OIL SPILLS FIELD WOULD BE NARROWED TO THOSE AREAS OF THE
PROBLEM ON WHICH THE EXPERTS HAD AGREED CCMS COULD MOST EFFECTIVELY
AND PRODUCTIVELY TARGET ITS EFFORTS AT THIS STATE.

6. COMMENT: AGREEMENT REACHED BY EXPERT GROUP RECOGNIZES
AND SUPPORTS PREEMINENT ROLE OF IMCO IN FIELD TO FULL EXTEND
ENABLED BY ITS WORK PROGRAM AND MANDATE. AT SAME TIME MEETING
OUTCOME ACKNOWLEDGED UTILITY AND CONTINUITY OF CCMS CONCERN FOR
THIS OVERALL PROBLEM AND ITS CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE USEFULLY, AS
IN PAST, IN HELPING FOSTER CONCRETE AND SPECIFIC ACTION WHERE
THIS WAS NEEDED MOST-- FOR WHICH U.S. HAS CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSED
STRONG, HIGH LEVEL SUPPORT SINCE ORIGINAL CCMS INITIATIVE
ON OIL SPILLS IN 1970. END COMMENT. MCAULIFFE
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